



Seed Establishment Notes

Dear Customer

Thank you for ordering from us via either of our two websites:

www.meadowmania.co.uk

or

www.meadowmania.ie

or through our shop on Amazon and Ebay.

This booklet gives a lot of advice to help you get the best from your seed, plants or bulbs. If you are unsure about anything please feel free to contact us by:

Telephone on: 0800 085 4399

or

e-mail: shop@meadowmania.co.uk

We welcome pictures of your wild flowers areas once established. If we are able to use them on our website we will send you 25 grams of free wild flower seed from our border range.

We have been supplying and advising on seed for over 25 years. If you are not happy with the way your product performs please free to contact us and we will do our best to help.

Tim Evans

www.meadowmania.co.uk

Seed Establishment Notes

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WILD FLOWER MEADOWS

Notes on Establishment and Maintenance.

The following notes should cover the main points with regard to the establishment and maintenance of a wild flower meadow. The notes will be by no means a definitive answer to all problems.

ESTABLISHMENT

With the Wild Flower mixtures it is important to remember that they thrive best when on 'poor' soil. This is because on ground with reasonable fertility other grasses and weeds may grow too quickly and smother the mixture. In some case where people have been concerned about high fertility they have removed some of the topsoil first. This is unlikely to be necessary in most cases.

It is very important that the ground is prepared thoroughly. Once established both the grasses and wild flowers will be easy to maintain but they can take some time to get started. In particular you need to get rid of any invasive weeds like couch grass, docks, nettles and elder. It is, in some cases, worth looking at the ground nearby where you are sowing the seed. For example, if you plant next to a field full of docks they are going to reseed in your meadow.

You can dig the site over with a fork by hand, removing all the weeds. Cover the area with black plastic for a while. For larger areas you may need to spray with a herbicide. Then use a rotavator to turn the soil over (if you have the time it can pay to go through this process twice). Remove what is there and wait to see what starts to establish, then remove that before planting the seed.

Before sowing or planting, the soil should be broken up and be relatively free-draining. It can then be raked over to a firm and fine tilth, as you would for a lawn. Since you are looking to sow only a small amount of seed per square metre it may help to mix it in with some sand or earth first to increase the volume and help spread it more evenly. You should broadcast the seed or if you are establishing a larger area a hand operated lawn fertilizer spreader

Wild Flower Seed

could do the job. Even on large areas broadcasting will work better than drilling. After sowing the ground should ideally be consolidated in some way such as by rolling it or by walking all over it.

The best times for sowing are March through to May or in the autumn (July through to early October). It is worth noting that the grasses and wild Flowers will take some time to get established. You will start to see the real benefit in the second year rather than the first year of establishment. Do not panic if the meadow is disappointing in it's first summer.

MAINTENANCE

For large areas of Wild Flower Meadows people often keep paths regularly mown through the area so they can get the full benefit of the meadow.

In general once established the Wild Flower meadows can turn what is often a neglected part of the garden into an attractive area that needs little maintenance. All our Wild Flower range of mixtures are what is known as summer meadows i.e. flowering throughout the summer.

It is important that the grass is cut each year. If it were left completely then eventually the ground would revert to scrubland.

Whilst guidelines are difficult as each year can be very different, we suggest that in the first year the meadow may need cutting in the early spring. Do not cut after mid March. After this leave it and wait until all the summer flowers are over (normally in the early autumn). Some species will flower twice and you may need to give it a second cut in the late autumn.

It should never be cut too short (the blades should be set at about 4" if possible). This level will prevent the broad-leaved plants from being destroyed whilst allowing light and air to them. You will need to remove the grass cuttings but it is worth leaving them for a few days to wilt, so making it less weight to move. If left on the ground and not removed at all they may well kill some of the broad-leaved plants.

After the first year in following years the meadow can safely be cut down to 1 to 2 inches in height in the autumn.

MIXTURE	SEED RATE	50 m ²	250 m ²	1 acre	1 hect.
WILD FLOWERS 20 %	4gm/m ²	0.2 kilo	1 kilo	15 kilo	37 kilo
WILD FLOWERS 100%	1.5gm/m ²	75gms	375gm	6 kilo	15 kilo
CORNFIELD ANNUALS	2gm/m ²	0.1 kilo	0.5 kilo	8 kilo	20 kilo

Wild Flower Bulbs

ESTABLISHING NATIVE WILD FLOWER BULBS

Autumn Planted Bulbs.

With regard to Bluebells, Snowdrops, Wild daffodils, Snakeshead fritillary and Wild garlic. Plant them about 2 to 2.5 times the size of the bulb under the ground. A minimum depth should be 2 to 3 inches

Plant Star of Bethlehem about 2 inches deep, Wild tulips and Hyacinth about 4 inches deep. Crocuses should be planted about 2/3 inches deep

Wood anemone should be treated differently. Ideally they should be soaked in water for a couple of hours before planting. They should be then planted horizontally at about 1 to 2 inches depth and covered in soil or leaf mould.

To create a random effect lightly throw the bulbs over the area you want to put them in. Then plant them where they have landed.

On receipt of your bulbs they should be planted as quickly as possible. If this is not possible they can be kept by wrapping them in damp newspaper. (Wood anemones in particular are susceptible if left to long or they dry out) This can only be done for a few days. Please try to keep planting areas moist.

Spring Planting in the Green

This means they are dug up soon after flowering and need replanting as soon as possible. They are supplied in this way because they establish better than as ordinary bulbs.

They should be planted at the depth they were dug up from. You should be able to see this on the side of the shoot. If this is not clear then plant them about 2 to 2.5 times the size of the bulb under the ground. A minimum depth should be 5 cm

The Snowdrops will benefit from being soaked in water for about 2 hours before planting. (the bulb part only)

On receipt of your bulbs they should be planted immediately, if this causes inconvenience they can be kept by wrapping them in damp newspaper. This can only be done for a few days. Please try to keep planting areas moist.

Amenity Seed

LAWN ESTABLISHMENT GUIDANCE NOTES

Good preparation is normally the key to success and before you sow the seeds it is important to prepare the soil adequately.

- Clear the area to be cultivated of growing weeds, grass, nettles, stones etc. If necessary treat with a non-residual herbicide to kill off all growth. Dig or fork over the soil to a depth of about 15cm (approx.6"). Level out the soil with a rake after digging and allow this to settle for a week. Rake the area again, remove any new weeds and form a fine seedbed. Firm the soil down by treading the site evenly and then rake until level.
- Choose the appropriate mixture for your circumstances from our range.
- Lawn seeding is best done in either spring or early autumn. Suggested seed rates are by each mixture. A seed quantity calculation table is shown below. We suggest trying part of the area first so that you do not run out half way! Scatter evenly moving left to right, top to bottom. Then rake the seeded area to partially cover the seed (to a depth of 0.5cm - approx. 1/4" - is fine). Seed left on top should still germinate.
- New grass seedlings will appear over the next 7- 21 days depending on the weather. Water the seeds if it is dry to keep them moist. When the grass has reached a height of about an inch, give the area a gentle roll. Use the back roller of your mower (with the cutter head held high).
- Hold off mowing your new lawn until it has reached about 8cm (approx 3") high and then only take off about 1.5cm (approx. 1/2"). On subsequent cuts you can gradually lower the blades, but don't go lower than an inch.

AMENITY MIXTURE SEED QUANTITY CALCULATOR

Seed Rate	800gms	5 Kilos	10 Kilos	20 Kilos
Over seeding a lawn at 20 grams per m²	40m ²	250m ²	500m ²	1000m ²
Seeding a new lawn at 40 grams per m²	20m ²	125m ²	250m ²	500m ²

Special Agricultural Mixes

PASTURE ESTABLISHMENT NOTES

As follows are only very brief notes on how best to establish one of our pasture mixtures. There is more extensive information and advice on our website.

The following assumes that you are establishing a new ley.

Soil Testing

It is important to soil test to determine PH and soil fertility levels. Ideally this wants to be done about 8 months before planting.

Lime & Fertiliser

Apply lime and fertiliser according to the results obtained. Lime should be applied 6 months prior to planting. Fertiliser can be applied at planting time.

Prepare a Good Seedbed

Grass mixtures require a well prepared and firm seedbed. Finely worked seedbeds allow good soil to seed contact. Work should be done to remove as much competition and weeds as possible.

Choose Appropriate Mixture

We stock a wide range of general and specialist ley mixtures. If there is a particular mixture you would like to sow that we do not stock we would welcome the opportunity to quote you a price on it.

Planting

The seed can be drilled or broadcast. This should ideally be done in April through to May or in August through to September. After drilling or broadcasting rolling should consolidate the ground.

Maintenance

A newly seeded pasture should ideally not be grazed until the plants have reached about 8 inches. Then they should only be grazed lightly to begin with.

Hedging

HEDGING ESTABLISHMENT

If the weather is unsuitable for planting on receiving the hedging, dig a hole and bury the roots of the bunched plants. (storage prior to this should be inside away from possible frosts.) They can be stored like this until planting becomes possible. After planting it is advantageous to mulch the hedge with lawn mowings or leafmould to suppress weeds. If preferred this can be done using plastic or carpet ground cover placed around the plants and covered with soil.

All the species in a wildlife hedge can be cut back or 'coppiced' without harm, in the first year after establishment the hedge can be cut back to stimulate growth of the hedge from the base. Thereafter cut every 2 –3 years. The best time to cut is in spring after wildlife have benefitted from berries etc. as food source and before birds start to nest.

HOW TO PLANT A HEDGE

Good soil preparation beforehand will give your hedge the best start in life.

Soil preparation

- Prepare the ground by digging over a strip 60-90cm and about one spade blade deep
- If a herbicide (weedkiller) has not been used beforehand, remove all weeds. Do not add organic matter to the bottom of the trench as it decomposes causing the shrub to sink.

Planting

- Plant 4 per metre for Single row, 6 per metre for Double row
- Trim back damaged roots to healthy growth with sharp knife or old pair of secateurs
- Spread out the roots, ensuring the planting depth is correct.
- On sandy or heavy clay soils, mix organic matter, such as garden compost or a proprietary tree and shrub planting mix, with the soil dug out from the hole to backfill
- Work soil between the roots, firm plants in so that soil is in close contact with the roots. Water if the soil is dry
- Mulch to a depth of 7.5cm (3in) after planting to prevent weeds.

Aftercare

- Ensure plants are well-watered during dry spells for the next two years
- Keep the hedge and 45cm (18in) on each side weed-free.

Plug Plants

ESTABLISHING PLUG PLANTS

Wildflower plugs are best planted between September and May.

- Water your plugs before planting.
- To remove your individual plant plugs push them up and out using the hole in the bottom of their cell.
- Hold off planting if the soil is dry, hard or frozen.
- Cut any grass very short and rake out any thatch
- Plant plugs at about 5 per sq metre
- Plant at least 3 of any one species near each other
- Once planted keep the plants watered during their first 6 weeks, the most common losses are caused by the plugs drying out just after planting.
- After planting, when necessary, mow the area of grass containing the plant plugs with your mower blades set at a high setting. Ideally about 4 inches. This is to try and stop the grass growing too tall and covering the young wildflower plants. This will allow them enough light and warmth to let them build up a good leaf and root system. When they are established stop mowing and let them progress.

TERMS & CONDITIONS OF SALE

SEED QUALITY - All amenity grass, vegetable and agricultural seed sold by us is guaranteed to comply at time of delivery with the EEC Seeds regulations currently in force. With wild flowers our seeds are of high viability, high purity, true to type and of the correct weight when delivered.

DELIVERY - Small parcels will be sent by 1st class post. Larger consignments will be sent by carrier on 24 hour delivery.

PACKING - Seed is supplied net weight in non-returnable bags.

VAT - Wild flower seed mixtures are subject to VAT at current rate. Grass and forage seeds are zero-rated.

AVAILABILITY - All seed is offered subject to availability on receipt of order. If certain grass or clover varieties are not available then we reserve the right to substitute comparable strains. In all such cases they will be of equal merit.

CONSEQUENTIAL LOSS - We cannot be held responsible for failure of the seed to germinate or any consequential loss due to conditions outside our control.

PAYMENT AND INTEREST - Non credit account customers pay cash with order. Credit account customers pay within 28 days of Invoice. Overdue accounts are liable to an interest charge of 2% per month.

OWNERSHIP - Goods remain the property of MAS until paid for and they may be reclaimed if not paid for in 28 days.

MAS - We try and ensure that the goods are sound and of good quality. If on receipt of delivery you have reason to be dissatisfied with the product, let us know and we will either replace the product or refund payment.

ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS - An order placed with us constitutes acceptance of these terms and conditions by the buyer.

MAS Seed Specialists



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